(c) if so, to what extent the strategy has been helpful in improving the conditions of the cotton growers in the Vidarbha Region in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) The Government of India launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) in February, 2000 in Ninth Five Year Plan, with the objective of improvement in the production, productivity and quality of cotton and reduction in cost of cultivation, in order to provide abundant supply of good quality cotton at competitive prices to the textile industry and a remunerative return to the farmers. The scheme is functional in Maharashtra State also including Vidarbha region. The mission consists of four mini missions, which are being jointly implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Textiles. Objectives of Mini Missions (MMs) are as under:

(i) Mini Mission I relates to Research and Development on cotton, which strengthen especially on genetic improvement of cotton, cottonseed technology, Resource management for quality cotton production, modernization of cotton cultivation, and post harvest technology. This scheme is being implementing by the Indian Council for Agriculture Research (ICAR).

(ii) Mini Mission II relates to Dissemination of technology to farmers. The main components include production and supply of certified seed of varieties/hybrids, transfer of technology through field demonstration & farmers' training and thereby increasing production and productivity of cotton. The Ministry of Agriculture implements mini mission-II.

(iii) Mini Mission III relates to improvement in marketing infrastructure and includes the revival of dormant market yards, improvement in existing market yards and setting up of new market yards.

(iv) Mini Mission IV arms at modernization of ginning and pressing factories and thereby improving the quality of cotton by reducing contamination ensuring better prices to the growers.

(Ministry of Textiles is the nodal agency for MM-III & MM-IV of TMC which are being implemented through Cotton Corporation of India Ltd., Mumbai)

Constant decline in traditional handloom industry

†1393. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that constant decline in traditional handloom industry sector has been registered resulting in the hardships for the weavers;

(b) if so, the steps taken on the part of Government in order to check this decline in handloom sector;

(c) whether Government has formulated any plan to furnish information to the weavers regarding modern colours, fashions and brand etc. with a view to promote Indian handloom industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The handloom sector is highly decentralized in nature and, therefore, the production in handloom is estimated on the basis of domestic delivery of hank yarn in Kgs. During the last three years handloom production has maintained a positive growth. Since 2004-05, a consistent increase in production of handloom fabrics has been witnessed with the production rising from 5722 mn sq. mtre in 2004-05, 6263 mn sq.mtre, in 2005-2006, 6536 mn.sq.mtr in 2006-07. During the current year, 2007-08 (upto January) also, the production of fabrics has reached to 5797 mn.sq.mtre (Prov) and it is anticipated to reach upto 7865 mn sq. mtre upto March, 2008.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has introduced Integrated Handloom Development scheme Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme, Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme, Mill Gate Price Scheme and Diversified Handloom Development Scheme to be implemented during the Eleventh Five year Plan. These schemes will enable the handloom weavers to enhance production, productivity and efficiency of the handloom sector and enhance their income and socio-economic status by upgrading their skills and providing infrastructural input and marketing support. DHD scheme include the components, with a view to create awareness among the weavers about modern colours, fashions etc., to promote handloom industries.

Closing down of handloom industries in Uttarakhand

1394. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that many handloom industries have been closed down in Uttarakhand during the last seven years; and

(b) if so, the steps to be taken by his Ministry for encouraging the handloom industry in this State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) No such report have been received from the State Government. However, the Government of India is implementing a number of schemes to enhance production, productivity and efficiency of the handloom sector and enhance the income and socio-economic status of the weavers by upgrading their skill and providing infrastructural input and marketing support all over the country including Uttarakhand. During the Eleventh Five Year Plan, the following schemes have been formulated for upliftment of handloom weavers:—

(i) Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme

(ii) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme

(iii) Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme

(iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme

(v) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme